

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1 to 5, and 7 to 40 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A document control apparatus for storing
~~accumulating~~ and controlling electronic documents accessible from an external apparatus,
~~outside~~ comprising:

registering means for registering electronic documents to a storage, the
electronic documents being transmitted from an external transmitting apparatus;

period controlling means for storing information of a document control
period of the electronic documents registered by said registering means ~~information per a~~
~~unit of an electronic document when registering a document;~~

keeping means for keeping the electronic documents in the storage for a
predetermined period even after the document control period of the electronic document
has expired;

access prohibiting means for prohibiting ~~an~~ access from the external
apparatus ~~outside to an~~ to the electronic document whose document control period has
expired; and

period updating means for updating the said document control period for an
extension of the document control period based on a user confirmation ~~per a unit of an~~
~~electronic document;~~

temporary access allowing means for allowing temporary access to the electronic document whose document control period has expired based on a predetermined charge; and

transferring means for transferring the electronic document to the external apparatus based on a user request,

wherein the transferred electronic document is a document whose document control period has not expired, a document whose document control period has been extended by said period updating means, or a document to which temporary access has been allowed by said temporary access allowing means.

2. (Currently Amended) The document control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

document processing ~~registering~~ means for ~~registering~~, updating and/or deleting ~~the said~~ electronic document stored in the storage; and

document searching means for searching ~~said accumulated and stored~~ electronic documents stored in the storage; and

~~document transferring means for transmitting and receiving electronic document data with an external apparatus.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The document control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said period controlling means ~~controls said~~ stores the information of the document control period ~~information~~ together with a body of the said electronic document embedded in the said electronic document.

4. (Currently Amended) The document control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the said electronic document comprises:

control information of an electronic document including ~~said the~~
information of the document control period information, a document owner, an access
authority holder, or a document name;

attached information of an electronic document including summary
information of a document and/or index information; and

a body of an electronic document transmitted from the external transmitting
apparatus requested for registration from outside.

5. (Currently Amended) The document control apparatus according to claim 4 ~~1~~, wherein the electronic document stored in the storage comprises ~~it is possible to~~
~~alternatively set link information~~ instead of the body of the ~~indicating a location of an~~
~~entity of data forming said electronic document, the link information indicating a location~~
of the body of the electronic document in a predetermined information region, and
~~accumulate and control said entity of data in a storage location that is physically different~~
~~from said predetermined information region.~~

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The document control apparatus according to claim 1 ~~6~~, wherein said keeping means keeps ~~it is possible to store~~ an electronic document
that is ~~most~~ frequently accessed from the external apparatus ~~outside~~ for a predetermined
~~fixed time of period and in a fixed volume, and wherein said temporary access allowing~~

means allows the temporary access to the stored electronic document based on a predetermined charge ~~with a special charge system~~ different from a regular charge for accessing the document.

8. (Currently Amended) The document control apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said document searching means notifies the external apparatus of the information of document control period of the searched electronic document ~~an outside accessing party of storing period information as said control period information of said electronic document set by said period controlling means in advance according to a remaining period when searching and inspecting said electronic document.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The document control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~document accumulating means for accumulating said electronic document data;~~

user information storing ~~accumulating~~ means for storing information of ~~accumulating~~ registered users;

charge information storing ~~accumulating~~ means for storing ~~accumulating~~ charge information; and

history information storing ~~accumulating~~ means for storing information of ~~accumulating~~ electronic document access histories.

10. (Currently Amended) The document control apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, when update or deletion of the said ~~said~~ electronic document is instructed

from the external apparatus outside, said document ~~registering~~ processing means determines whether or not to accept the update or the deletion of the said electronic document based on access authority information set in advance.

11. (Currently Amended) A document control system comprising:

a document control apparatus for ~~accumulating~~ storing and controlling an electronic documents; and

an external apparatus to which ~~accumulation~~ an access control service of said electronic document is provided from said document control apparatus, wherein said document control apparatus comprises:

registering means for registering electronic documents to a storage, the electronic documents being transmitted from an external transmitting apparatus;

period controlling means for storing information of a document control period of the electronic documents registered by said registering means ~~information per a unit of an electronic document when registering a document;~~

keeping means for keeping the electronic documents in the storage for a predetermined period even after the document control period of the electronic document has expired;

access prohibiting means for prohibiting ~~an~~ access from the external apparatus outside to an to the electronic document whose document control period has expired; and

period updating means for updating said document control period for an extension of the document control period based on a user confirmation; per a unit of an electronic document

temporary access allowing means for allowing temporary access to the electronic document whose document control period has expired based on a predetermined charge; and

transferring means for transferring the electronic document to the external apparatus based on a user request,

wherein the transferred electronic document is a document whose document control period has not expired, a document whose document control period has been extended by said period updating means, or a document to which temporary access has been allowed by said temporary access allowing means.

12. (Currently Amended) The document control system according to claim 11, wherein said document control apparatus further comprises:

document processing ~~registering~~ means for ~~registering~~, updating and/or deleting said electronic document stored in the storage; and

document searching means for searching ~~said accumulated and stored~~ electronic documents stored in the storage; and

~~document transferring means for transmitting and receiving electronic document data with an external apparatus.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The document control system according to claim 11, wherein said period controlling means of said document control apparatus ~~controls said~~ stores the information of the document control period information together with a body of said electronic document embedded in said electronic document.

14. (Currently Amended) The document control system according to claim 11, wherein said electronic document comprises:

control information of an electronic document including ~~said the~~
~~information of the~~ document control period ~~information, a document owner, an access~~
~~authority holder, or a document name;~~

attached information of an electronic document including summary
information of a document and/or index information; and

a body of an electronic document transmitted from the external transmitting
apparatus requested for registration from outside.

15. (Currently Amended) The document control system according to claim
14, wherein the electronic document stored in the storage comprises ~~it is possible to~~
~~alternatively set~~ link information instead of the body of the ~~indicating a location of an~~
~~entity of data forming said~~ electronic document, the link information indicating a location
of the body of the electronic document ~~in a predetermined information region, and~~
~~accumulate and control said entity of data in a storage location that is physically different~~
~~from said predetermined information region.~~

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The document control system according to claim
16, wherein said keeping means of said document control apparatus ~~is capable of storing~~
keeps an electronic document that is ~~most~~ frequently accessed from the external
apparatus outside for a predetermined ~~fixed time of~~ period and in a fixed volume, and

wherein said temporary access allowing means allows the temporary access to the stored electronic document based on a predetermined charge ~~with a special charge system~~
different from a regular charge for accessing the document.

18. (Currently Amended) The document control system according to claim 12, wherein said document searching means of said document control apparatus notifies the external apparatus of the information of the document control period of the searched electronic document ~~an outside accessing party of storing period information as said control period information of said electronic document set by said period controlling means in advance according to a remaining period when searching and inspecting said electronic document.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The document control system according to claim 11, wherein said document control apparatus further comprises:

~~document accumulating means for accumulating said electronic document data;~~

user information storing ~~accumulating~~ means for storing information of accumulating registered users;

charge information storing ~~accumulating~~ means for storing accumulating charge information; and

history information storing ~~accumulating~~ means for storing information of accumulating electronic document access histories.

20. (Currently Amended) The document control system according to claim 12, wherein, when update or deletion of said electronic document is instructed from the external apparatus outside, said document registering processing means of said document control apparatus determines whether or not the update or the deletion of said electronic document should be accepted based on access authority information set in advance.

21. (Currently Amended) A document control method applied to a document control system having a document control apparatus for accumulating storing and controlling electronic documents and an external apparatus to which an access accumulation control service of said electronic document is provided from said document control apparatus, comprising:

a registering step of registering electronic documents to a storage, the electronic documents being transmitted from an external transmitting apparatus;

a period controlling step of storing information of a document control period of the electronic documents registered by said registering step information per a unit of an electronic document when registering a document;

a keeping step of keeping the electronic documents in the storage for a predetermined period even after the document control period of the electronic document has expired;

an access prohibiting step of prohibiting means for prohibiting an access from the external apparatus outside to an to the electronic document whose document control period has expired; and

a period updating step of updating said document control period for an extension of the document control period based on a user confirmation; per a unit of an electronic document

a temporary access allowing step of allowing temporary access to the electronic document whose document control period has expired based on a predetermined charge; and

a transferring step of transferring the electronic document to the external apparatus based on a user request,

wherein the transferred electronic document is a document whose document control period has not expired, a document whose document control period has been extended by said period updating means, or a document to which temporary access has been allowed by said temporary access allowing step.

22. (Currently Amended) The document control method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a document processing ~~registering~~ step of ~~registering~~, updating and/or deleting said electronic document stored in the storage; and

a document searching step of searching ~~said accumulated and stored~~ electronic documents stored in the storage; and

~~a document transferring step of transmitting and receiving electronic document data with an external apparatus.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The document control method according to claim 21, wherein said document control period information is ~~controlled~~ stored together with a

body of said electronic document embedded in said electronic document in said period controlling step.

24. (Currently Amended) The document control method according to claim 21, wherein said electronic document comprises:

control information of an electronic document including said information of the document control period ~~information, a document owner, an access authority holder, or a document name;~~

attached information of an electronic document including summary information of a document and/or index information; and

a body of an electronic document transmitted from the external transmitting apparatus ~~requested for registration from outside.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The document control method according to claim 21 ~~24~~, wherein the electronic document stored in the storage comprises it is possible to alternatively set link information instead of the body of the ~~indicating a location of an entity of data forming said~~ electronic document, the link information indicating a location of the body of the electronic document in a predetermined information region, and ~~accumulate and control said entity of data in a storage location that is physically different from said predetermined information region.~~

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The document control method according to claim 26 21, wherein said keeping step keeps it is possible to store an electronic document that is most frequently accessed from the external apparatus outside for a predetermined fixed time of period and in a fixed volume, and wherein said temporary access allowing step allows the temporary access to the stored electronic document based on a predetermined charge with a special charge system different from a regular charge for accessing the document.

28. (Currently Amended) The document control method according to claim 22, wherein ~~storing period information as said control period information of said electronic document set by said period controlling means in advance is notified to an outside accessing party according to a remaining period when searching and inspecting said electronic document in said document searching step~~ notifies the external apparatus of the information of the document control period of the searched electronic document.

29. (Currently Amended) The document control method according to claim 21, further comprising:

~~a document accumulating step of accumulating said electronic document data;~~

a user information storing accumulating step of accumulating storing information of registered users;

a charge information storing accumulating step of accumulating storing charge information; and

a history information storing ~~accumulating~~ step of ~~accumulating~~ storing information of electronic document access histories.

30. (Currently Amended) The document control method according to claim 22, wherein, when update or deletion of said electronic document is instructed from the external apparatus ~~outside~~, whether or not the update or the deletion of said electronic document should be accepted is determined based on access authority information set in advance in said document ~~registering~~ processing step.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a program for executing a document control method applied to a document control system having a document control apparatus for ~~accumulating~~ storing and controlling electronic documents, and an external apparatus to which ~~accumulation~~ an access control service of said electronic document is provided from said document control apparatus, wherein said document control method comprises:

a registering step of registering electronic documents to a storage, the electronic documents being transmitted from an external transmitting apparatus;

a period controlling step of storing information of a document control period of the electronic documents registered by the registering step ~~information per a unit of an electronic document when registering a document;~~

a keeping step of keeping the electronic documents in the storage for a predetermined period even after the document control period of the electronic document has expired;

an access prohibiting step of prohibiting means for prohibiting ~~an~~ access from the external apparatus outside to an to the electronic document whose document control period has expired; ~~and~~

a period updating step of updating said document control period for an extension of the document control period based on a user confirmation; per a unit of an electronic document

a temporary access allowing step of allowing temporary access to the electronic document whose document control period has expired based on a predetermined charge; and

a transferring step of transferring the electronic document to the external apparatus based on a user request,

wherein the transferred electronic document is a document whose document control period has not expired, a document whose document control period has been extended by said period updating means, or a document to which temporary access has been allowed by said temporary access allowing step.

32. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 31, wherein said document control method, further comprising:

a document processing ~~registering~~ step of ~~registering~~, updating and/or deleting said electronic document stored in the storage; and

a document searching step of searching ~~said accumulated and stored~~ electronic documents stored in the storage; and

~~a document transferring step of transmitting and receiving electronic document data with an external apparatus.~~

33. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 31, wherein said information of said document control period information is ~~controlled~~ stored together with a body of said electronic document embedded in said electronic document in said period controlling step.

34. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 31, wherein said electronic document comprises:

control information of an electronic document including said information of the document control period information, ~~a document owner, an access authority holder, or a document name;~~

attached information of an electronic document including summary information of a document and/or index information; and

a body of an electronic document transmitted from the external transmitting apparatus ~~requested for registration from outside.~~

35. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim ~~31~~ 34, wherein the electronic document stored in the storage comprises ~~it is possible to alternatively set link information instead of the body of the~~ indicating a location of an entity of data forming said electronic document, the link information indicating a location of the body of the electronic document in a predetermined information region, and ~~accumulate and control said entity of data in a storage location that is physically different from said predetermined information region.~~

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 36 31, wherein said keeping step keeps ~~it is possible to store~~ an electronic document that is ~~most~~ frequently accessed from the external apparatus outside for a predetermined fixed time of period and in a fixed volume, and wherein said temporary access allowing step allows the temporary access to the stored electronic document based on a predetermined charge with a ~~special charge system~~ different from a regular charge for accessing the document.

38. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 32, wherein ~~storing period information as said control period information of said electronic document set by said period controlling step in advance is notified to an outside accessing party according to a remaining period when searching and inspecting said electronic document in~~ said document searching step notifies the external apparatus of the information of the document control period of the searched electronic document.

39. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 31, wherein said document control method further comprises:

~~a document accumulating step of accumulating said electronic document data;~~

a user information storing accumulating step of storing information of ~~accumulating~~ registered users;

a charge information storing accumulating step of accumulating storing charge information; and

a history information storing accumulating step of storing information of ~~accumulating~~ electronic document access histories.

40. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 32, wherein, when update or deletion of said electronic document is instructed from the external apparatus ~~outside~~, whether or not the update or the deletion of said electronic document should be accepted is determined based on access authority information set in advance in said document ~~registering~~ processing step.